

**MEMORANDUM**

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**

**ACTION**

**6227**

NSC review  
completed.

**SECRET**

**December 19, 1974**

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** SECRETARY KISSINGER

**FROM:**

ROBERT B. OAKLEY *RB*

**SUBJECT:**

President's Meeting with Abdelaziz  
Bouteflika, Foreign Minister of Algeria,  
Friday, December 20, 1974

Attached is a talker for the President's meeting at 9:45 a.m.,  
December 20, 1974, with Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Foreign Minister  
of Algeria.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That you forward the attached talker to the President.

*OBF, Bouteflika  
not coming for interview*

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Boett -

[Redacted]

He is unsure whether or not he can come see the President tomorrow, so HAK has sent him the following message:

- 1- we need to know right away if B. is coming tomorrow
- 2- if he can not come, we will see about rescheduling and you
- 3- HAK can see him in NYC Saturday

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEETING WITH ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA  
FOREIGN MINISTER OF ALGERIA

Friday, December 20, 1974  
9:45 a.m. (30 minutes, translation required)  
The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

Although the possibility of this meeting was discussed in September, President Boumediene preferred that it take place after the UN General Assembly so that Bouteflika would meet you as Algerian Foreign Minister and not as the President of the Assembly.

This meeting has four purposes:

--to mark symbolically the resumption of normal diplomatic relations between the US and Algeria and our desire to improve bilateral relations. You will want to show an interest in participating in Algerian development without committing us to too much.

--to show a willingness to discuss broader world issues with Algeria and to cooperate where possible. Even though we have fundamentally different viewpoints on a number of issues, we want to show that, whatever our policy differences with Algeria, we respect their leadership role and are seeking dialogue rather than confrontation.

--on the Arab-Algerian issue, the US remains determined to continue its efforts; we remain convinced that our step-by-step approach is valid, and can produce an overall settlement of all issues.

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--to state our position that the economic relations between developed and under-developed, producers and consumers are such that only by cooperative effort can we solve the world's serious economic problems; demands at the UN and elsewhere for overturning the existing system or other unrealistic goals make the indispensable cooperation much more difficult, if not impossible.

## II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: We assume Bouteflika will concentrate on his Government's priority concerns which are: (1) development of the Algerian economy through rapid industrialization, (2) achievement of a Middle East settlement which respects the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians, (3) maintenance of high oil prices, (4) reordering of the world economic structure.

The Algerians have earned the reputation for being pragmatic where their basic national interests are concerned. However, they do have a fundamentally different view of the world from ours, and they tend to use their radical ideology when convenient to enhance their image as a leader of the Third World.

The resumption of relations between the US and Algeria on November 12, legitimated what had come to be a de facto diplomatic relationship for the past three years. While it may facilitate our exchanges somewhat, it will not change the fact that our interests are frequently in conflict on such issues as Cambodia, Korea, economic problems of the PLO, and support for revolutionary movements.

The Algerian leaders are flattered by our recognition of their leadership role and appreciate our seeking their advice and assistance in our Middle East peace effort. By stressing the need for dialogue and appealing to their innate pragmatism, we may be able to exert a modest moderating influence on them.

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B. Participants: Foreign Minister Bouteflika, myself and General Scowcroft. The State Department translator (English-French) will be

C. Press Arrangements: There will be a White House photo session, and announcement and short summary statement of the meeting in Mr. Nesson's daily briefing.

### III. TALKING POINTS

1. I am gratified at the resumption of diplomatic ties between our countries. (US Ambassador Richard Parker is now confirmed and will take up his post in early January.) Although our policies differ on many issues, we should avoid unproductive confrontations and instead try to resolve our differences through dialogue.
2. In the wake of renewed diplomatic relations, we hope to expand our economic and technological cooperation with Algeria, particularly in the private sector. However, where Eximbank financing is concerned, it will be necessary to select priority projects as we cannot provide enough financing for all projects that interest US firms.
3. Our dialogue on the Arab-Israel problem has proved its value and we look forward to further exchanges. We believe that the step-by-step approach is the right one and trust that we shall be able to rely on your support throughout the slow and difficult process. We are not unsympathetic to the interests of the Palestinian people but this problem must be approached realistically.
4. We are convinced that the current high level of oil prices threatens the stability of the world economy and is ruinous for many LDC's. The International Energy Agency is designed to protect importers and is not an instrument of confrontation. We favor a properly-prepared conference between producers and consumers to try and resolve some of the serious problems troubling the world's economy.

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5. We are concerned about mounting pressures to restructure the world economy. We believe this, too, is a subject for dialogue, not confrontation. The US and other industrialized countries are ready to assist the developing countries to improve their economic condition. But we also have serious economic problems. A cooperative approach is essential. It is very hard for us to build political support here for helping nations which constantly attack us and show no appreciation for the need to be realistic in the steps we take to solve these problems.
6. We would have been less than honest if we had not expressed our concern about what has happened at the UN this session. We can understand feelings about the need for a new balance in the UN, but are concerned about recent trends which have jeopardized support from those countries on which the Organization primarily depends for its continued existence. It has also jeopardized the usefulness of the UN itself. Here, too, we think what is needed is a dialogue about what we can jointly do to make the UN more effective, rather than an adversary or confrontation approach.
7. We admire the progress that Algeria has and is making and the important role it plays. I will welcome your views as well as those of President Boumediene on issues of common interest to our two countries.

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